

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 20243 130245Z
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-05 CA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6078
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 20243

FOLLOWING TEL SENT BANGKOK FROM CHIANG MAI 12 SEP 77 REPEATED
FOR YOUR INFO:

QTE
C O N F I D E N T I A L CHIANG MAI 338

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, TH, LA
SUBJECT: FLOW OF REFUGEES FROM LAOS

REFS: (A) STATE 215732, (B) BANGKOK 20114, (C) CHIANG MAI 286,
(D) CHIANG MAI 325

1. THE EXACT FIGURES ON NUMBERS OF REFUGEES ARRIVING IN NORTH THAILAND PER MONTH ARE NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE IN THIS OFFICE, BUT FOLLOWING RECENT VISITS TO ALL OF THE CAMPS WE HAVE THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT THE CAMP POPULATION IN THE NORTH HAS STABILIZED AND THAT THE FLOW OF NEW REFUGEES IN DOWN TO A TRICKLE, AT LEAST AS FAR AS REFUGEES BEING OFFICIALLY ADMITTED INTO THE U.N. SUPPORTED CAMPS ARE CONCERNED. IN FACT IN UTTARADIT PROVINCE, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, (SEE REF D), WE ARE INFORMED THAT NO NEW REFUGEES ARE BEING PERMITTED TO ENTER THAILAND WITH THE PURPOSE OF MOVING INTO THAT CAMP.

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2. THE VERY GREAT MAJORITY OF REFUGEES IN THE NORTH ARE HILL-TRIBERS. IN THE PAST SUCH REFUGEES GENERALLY MOVED IN GROUPS, WITH SOMETIMES AS MANY AS 500 PEOPLE MOVING ACROSS THE LINE IN THE SAME DAY. SINCE JANUARY THERE HAVE ONLY BEEN TWO SUCH GROUPS, ONE ABOUT A HUNDRED PEOPLE, THE OTHER 150. THE FEW ETHNIC LAO WHO HAVE MOVED INTO NORTH THAILAND IN THE

PAST, AND HAVE TAKEN UP RESIDENCE IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS
ARE FOR THE MOST PART RURAL LAO.

3. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A SMALL STRETCH OF THE BORDER
IN CHIANG RAI PROVINCE, ALMOST THE ENTIRE BORDER IN THE
NORTH FOLLOWS A MOUNTAIN RANGE. A TRIP INTO THAILAND
THEREFORE PRESENTS CONSIDERABLE RISK AND HARDSHIP AND
IS NOT LIKELY TO BE THE TOUTE FOLLOWED BY THE URBAN LAO
WHO APPARENTLY NOW MAKE UP THE MAJORITY OF NEW REFUGEES
OUT OF LAOS.

TANNER UNQTE

WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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